

01/14/00

VENABLE, BAETJER, HOWARD & CIVILETTI, LLP  
Incorporating professional corporations

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3917  
(202) 962-4800, Fax (202) 962-8300  
www.venable.com

OFFICES IN

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
MARYLAND  
VIRGINIA

Robert Kinberg  
(202) 962-4051  
rkinberg@venable.com

jc598 U.S. PTO  
09/482679

01/14/00

**VENABLE**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

January 14, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket: 31653-152135 (RK)

RE: New Patent Application Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) for APPARATUS FOR MAKING A  
STREAM OF TOBACCO SHREDS by:

**Inventor:** Uwe HEITMANN  
**Address:** Schärstrasse 3, D-21031 Hamburg, Germany  
**Citizenship:** Germany

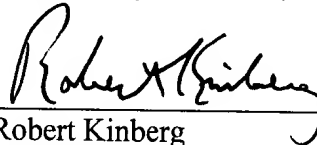
Sir:

Please find attached hereto an application for patent. It is hereby requested that this application be accorded a filing date pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)(1). Enclosed are:

- X Specification, claims and abstract.
- X Two (2) sheets of drawings (Figs. 1-3).
- X Information Disclosure Statement and cited reference.
- X Priority is claimed under 35 USC 119 from German Patent Application No. 199 01 087.0 filed January 14, 1999, the certified copy of which is enclosed.

A Declaration executed by the inventor and the required filing fee will be submitted in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Kinberg  
Registration No. 26,924  
VENABLE  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998  
Telephone: (202) 962-4800  
Telefax: (202) 962-8300

RK/trt

DC2DOCS1\178284